

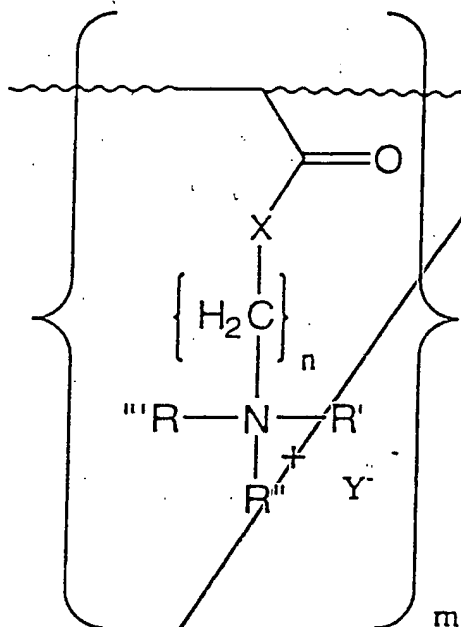
**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please delete claim 2.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 11, 21-23, and 35-36 to read as follows (See also

Appendix A):

1. (Amended) A cationic aqueous hydrogel comprising an inherently antimicrobial quaternary amine acrylate polymer having the formula:

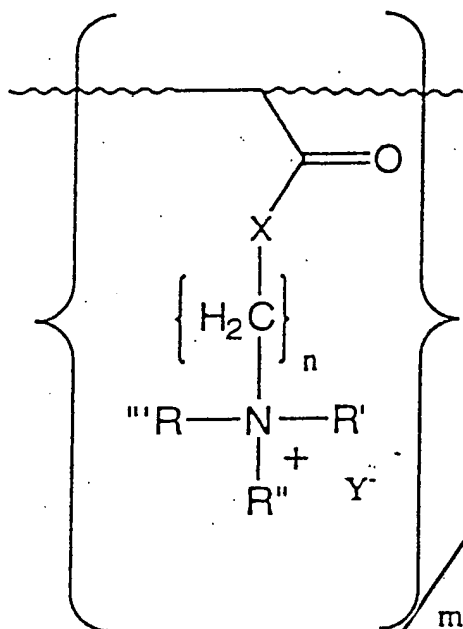


wherein n is an integer of 2 to 3; R', R'' and R''' are independently selected from the group consisting of H, C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>16</sub> alkyl, aryl, arylamine, alkylamine, alkaryl and aralkyl; X is selected from the group consisting of O and NH; Y<sup>-</sup> is an acceptable anionic counterion to the N<sup>+</sup> of the quaternary amine and m is an integer greater than 50,000.

10 11. (Amended) A wound dressing comprising a cationic hydrogel containing from about 15 to 95 weight percent by weight of an inherently antimicrobial quaternary

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amine acrylate polymer having the formula:



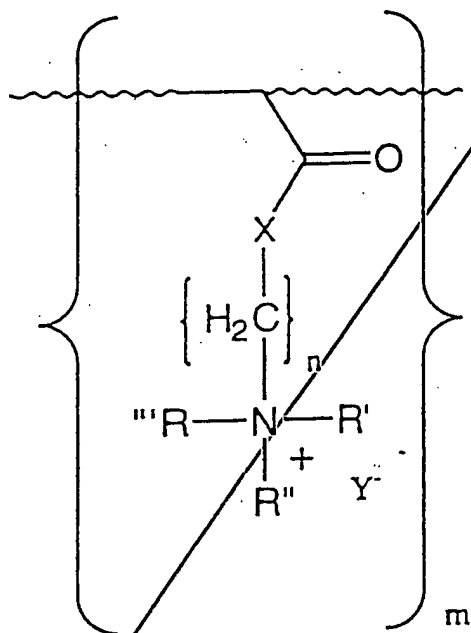
wherein n is an integer of 2 to 3; R', R'' and R''' are independently selected from the group consisting of H, C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>16</sub> alkyl, aryl, arylamine, alkylamine, alkaryl and aralkyl; X is selected from the group consisting of O and NH; Y<sup>-</sup> is an acceptable anionic counterion to the N<sup>+</sup> of the quaternary amine and m is an integer greater than 50,000.

*20*~~21~~. (Amended) A wound dressing according to Claim ~~11~~<sup>10</sup> wherein the hydrogel contains between about 61 and 90% by weight of said cationic quaternary amine acrylate polymer.

*B6* ~~21~~<sup>20</sup>. (Amended) A wound dressing according to Claim ~~21~~<sup>20</sup> wherein the hydrogel contains between about 65 and 75% by weight of said cationic quaternary amine acrylate polymer.

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23. (Amended) A device for the dressing of wounds comprising a substrate having fixedly attached thereto a wound dressing comprising a cationic hydrogel containing from about 15 to 95 weight percent by weight of an inherently antimicrobial quaternary amine acrylate polymer having the formula:



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35. (Amended) A device according to Claim 23 wherein the hydrogel contains between about 61 and 90% by weight of said cationic quaternary amine acrylate polymer.

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36. (Amended) A device according to Claim 23 wherein the hydrogel contains

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